

Testimony of Connie Ballard – Valuable property found on Pacific Coast Highway

Connie Ballard's life story has been as full of turns as the Pacific Coast Highway, the highway involved in the most important turn she made.

Connie grew up in a non-Christian home where there was physical abuse, fighting, gambling, and alcoholism. As she put it, "Today it would be called dysfunctional." She felt totally inadequate and insecure. She based her decisions on her emotions.

She left home at eighteen, moved into her own apartment, and worked for a couple of months, but soon decided that work was boring. She quit and hitchhiked to New York. With no job there, she soon wound up on the street panhandling for money. She came to realize she was no better than the bums who had been on the streets for years.



She called a Christian aunt in Los Angeles and went to live with her until she could get back on her feet. She found a job, and at her aunt's suggestion, moved to a Christian home for teenage girls where she would be living under a good influence. The influence she sought, however, was that of a neighbourhood bar where she played pool and hustled drinks every night. Soon she was drinking in the morning, too, and her job performance suffered. A concerned co-worker urged her to get away from that environment.

Connie moved to Hollywood where she met the man she would marry. His proposal was a challenge over a game of pool. If she lost the game, she would marry him. Not one to pass up a challenge, she made the bet, lost the game, and that night was on her way to Las Vegas to be married. It was a rocky marriage from the start. After three years she left her husband, and at age twenty-three, found herself living with a cousin. She realized that her life was totally out of control.

While driving on the Pacific Coast Highway one day, she noticed an object in the centre of the intersection. As she got closer, she realized that it was a Bible. She decided to stop and go back for it. As she puzzled how to reach it in the busy intersection, there was a lull in the traffic. She raced out and retrieved the Bible.

The cover said, "Placed by The Gideons," but Connie knew that the Gideons had not placed it there. It was her first Bible.

Connie was saved six months later. She believes that God allowed the Bible to be dropped there for her to find when she was desperately lost. She has been attending Bible college, and now hopes to go overseas as a missionary.

Even though the Scriptures are not always appreciated where they are placed, God still uses them in miraculous ways.